

Morris County's pre-disaster economy was healthy and county unemployment rates were significantly less than the New Jersey State average. Losses in Morris County included 3 businesses that received major damage, 163 businesses that received minor damage, and 990 businesses that were affected. Morris County is not expected to experience significant short- or long-term economic effects from Hurricane Floyd.

11.1 Pre-Disaster Conditions

Morris County's pre-disaster economy can be characterized as healthy, based upon available employment and income data. Average 1998 unemployment for the county was 2.8 percent, which is significantly less than the State's 4.6 percent figure. The 1997 per capita income for the county was \$42,913.

Morris County's primary industries are in the service sector, based on the number of employed individuals (see Table 11-1). Thirty-six percent of county residents are employed in the service sector. Retail trade and manufacturing each account for 17 percent. From 1996 to 2006, employment in the service and wholesale trade sectors is expected to increase substantially at annual rates of 2.2 percent and 1.8 percent,

Table 11-1 Primary Industries in Morris County (1996)

Sector	Number of Establishments	Number Employed
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing	471	1,831
Mining	11	< 2,500
Construction	1,737	8,488
Manufacturing	852	42,774
Transportation & Public Utilities	711	16,850
Wholesale Trade	1,565	22,771
Retail Trade	3,281	42,888
FIRE	1,470	21,345
Services	6,624	90,755
Unclassified	58	< 100
Total	16,780	248,821

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Section 11

respectively. Employment in manufacturing and FIRE is expected to decrease at an annual rate of 0.9 percent and 0.3 percent, respectively.

11.2 Post-Disaster Conditions

Losses in Morris County included 3 businesses that received major damage, 163 businesses that received minor damage, and 990 businesses that were affected. Morris County's EMC estimated that total business losses were approximately \$6.9 million. FEMA's CR reports indicate that business damages were greatest in Lincoln Park and Pequannock.

As of November 1, 1999, 112 Morris County businesses teleregistered with FEMA. As of January 13, 2000, five businesses in Morris County were approved for physical loans with SBA. The total value of these loans was \$81,000. The SBA approved economic injury loans for 4 businesses at a total of \$52,000.

11.3 Conclusions

Morris County's primary economic sectors are service, retail trade, and manufacturing, which account for 70 percent of the county's base. The county's average 1998 unemployment rate, 2.8 percent, was substantially lower than the State's figure, and county per capita income in 1997 was \$42,913. Generally, the county's economy is one of the healthiest in the State.

Damage in Morris County was notable: more than 1,000 businesses were impacted by Hurricane Floyd; however only three of these received major damage and none were destroyed. Anecdotal data suggests that this damage was spread throughout the county and not isolated in any communities, with the possible exception of Lincoln Park and Pequannock. Due to the economic strength of the county and the lack of major damage, Morris County should not experience significant short- or long-term economic effects from Hurricane Floyd. Municipalities in Morris County should consider implementing appropriate recommendations described in Section 3.4. Government officials should review specific recommendations that may be appropriate case studies to apply to Lincoln Park and Pequannock.